

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ARA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
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INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, LT
SUBJECT: UN SYMPOSIUM IN MASERU, JULY 17-22, 1978

REF: A. MASERU 1544, B. MACFARLANE - NORLAND TELECON JULY 18,

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. UNSYG REP AND SYMPOSIUM SECRETARY SANON, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTY MS. GROSS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID REP NOOR, ASKED TO MEET WITH US FOLLOWING SECOND SYMPOSIUM SESSION JULY 18. HE DENIED RUMOR THAT FINAL REPORT WAS DRAFTED (AND THE IMPLIED SUGGESTION THAT THE SECRETARIAT WAS BIASED), STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO BE OBJECTIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO A "POSITIVE AND HELPFUL" SYMPOSIUM RESULT WHICH, HE THOUGHT, WAS POSSIBLE GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF CERTAIN DELEGATIONS AND TONE OF THE MEETING THUS FAR. SANON SAID WESTERN, AND ESPECIALLY U.S., SILENCE WOULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AND URGED THAT WE USE THE OCCASION AT AT LEAST "RESTATE" RECENT U.S. EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE PEACEFUL CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

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2. SANON BEGAN BY STRESSING SECRETARIAT'S DETERMINATION TO AVOID USELESS RHETORIC AND CONDUCT A "POSITIVE AND HELPFUL" SYMPOSIUM. ANY OTHER SECRETARIAT ATTITUDE WAS IMPOSSIBLE AND WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, IF ONLY IN THE LONGER RUN. HE SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY RUMORS THAT THE SYMPOSIUM "SCRIPT HAD BEEN WRITTEN". AS IS CUSTOMARY IN SUCH MEETINGS THE SECRETARIAT HAD PREPARED INFORMATION WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED, AS BACK-

GROUND TO THE USUAL THREE-PART REPORT CONSISTING OF SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS -- A REPORT THAT, HE SAID, WOULD GO VIA THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO THE UNGA. IT HAD BEEN AGREED THERE WAS NEITHER TIME NOR A REPRESENTATIVE CROSS SECTION OF UN MEMBERS (ONLY 22 DELS) TO WRITE A DECLARATION WHICH REQUIRED CAREFUL DRAFTING AND DELIBERATIONS. IF THE SYMPOSIUM, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT "MORE THAN ONE POINT OF VIEW", I.E. OF AFRICANS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, BE HEARD. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED AT THE SILENCE OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SPEAK UP.

3. IN REPLY COOKS AND I STRESSED THE DELICATE STATE OF PLAY ON NAMIBIA AS AN EXAMPLE, WHICH HOWEVER WE THOUGHT SPOKE FOR ITSELF. SANON SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SITUATION AND SUGGESTED THAT EVEN A "RESTATEMENT" OF RECENT U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE WOULD BE VALUABLE AND WOULD HELP PROVIDE A PROPER BALANCE IN THE SITUATION. WE SAID WE WOULD REPORT HIS RECOMMENDATION AND APPRECIATED HIS COUNSEL.

4. COMMENT: AFTER CONSULTING WE AGREE, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS PERSONAL INTERESTS INVOLVED, THAT THE U.S. STANDS TO GAIN MORE THAN LOSE BY RESTATING SOME OF THE KEY POINTS OF U.S. POLICY. HENCE OUR RECOMMENDED SIX-POINT INTERVENTION COMMUNICATED REF B TELECON.
NORLAND

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